Hands on Habitat

State of Rhode Island

What Are the Problems?

- **Eelgrass beds** Poor water quality and development pressures have spurred significant declines.
- **Coastal wetlands** More than 50% of historic salt marshes have been destroyed by human activities.
- **Fish passage** Hundreds of man-made barriers (e.g., dams, weirs) block migratory fish access to spawning and nursery habitat and contribute to declines in fish populations.
- **Shellfish** Bay scallops and oysters have largely disappeared from coastal ponds due to degraded water quality, disease, and overharvesting.

Background

Rhode Island's coastline is home to a variety of habitats, including salt marshes, eelgrass beds, shellfish reefs, and streams. These coastal habitats contribute significantly to the state's biological diversity and support the economy. They also support commercial and recreational fisheries as well as tourism and outdoor recreation industries.

What We Do

- Modify or replace culverts to restore tidal flow
- Restore or improve fish passage
- Restore eelgrass habitat
- Enhance or restore shellfish populations
- Educate communities on and increase stewardship for habitat restoration

How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among Rhode Island's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation throughout Rhode Island.

Our Accomplishments

Since 1998, we have:

- Awarded more than $1.4 million and leveraged more than $2.3 million
- Funded 27 projects
- Completed 13 projects
- Restored more than 240 acres of habitat
- Engaged roughly 1,600 volunteers for 8,300 service hours through partner-led activities

Our Partners

NOAA works with 78 local, private, and public partners in Rhode Island, including Save The Bay, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, local municipalities, and watershed associations.

Our Focus

Counteract impacts from past unregulated activities and development to revive productive fish habitats in Rhode Island

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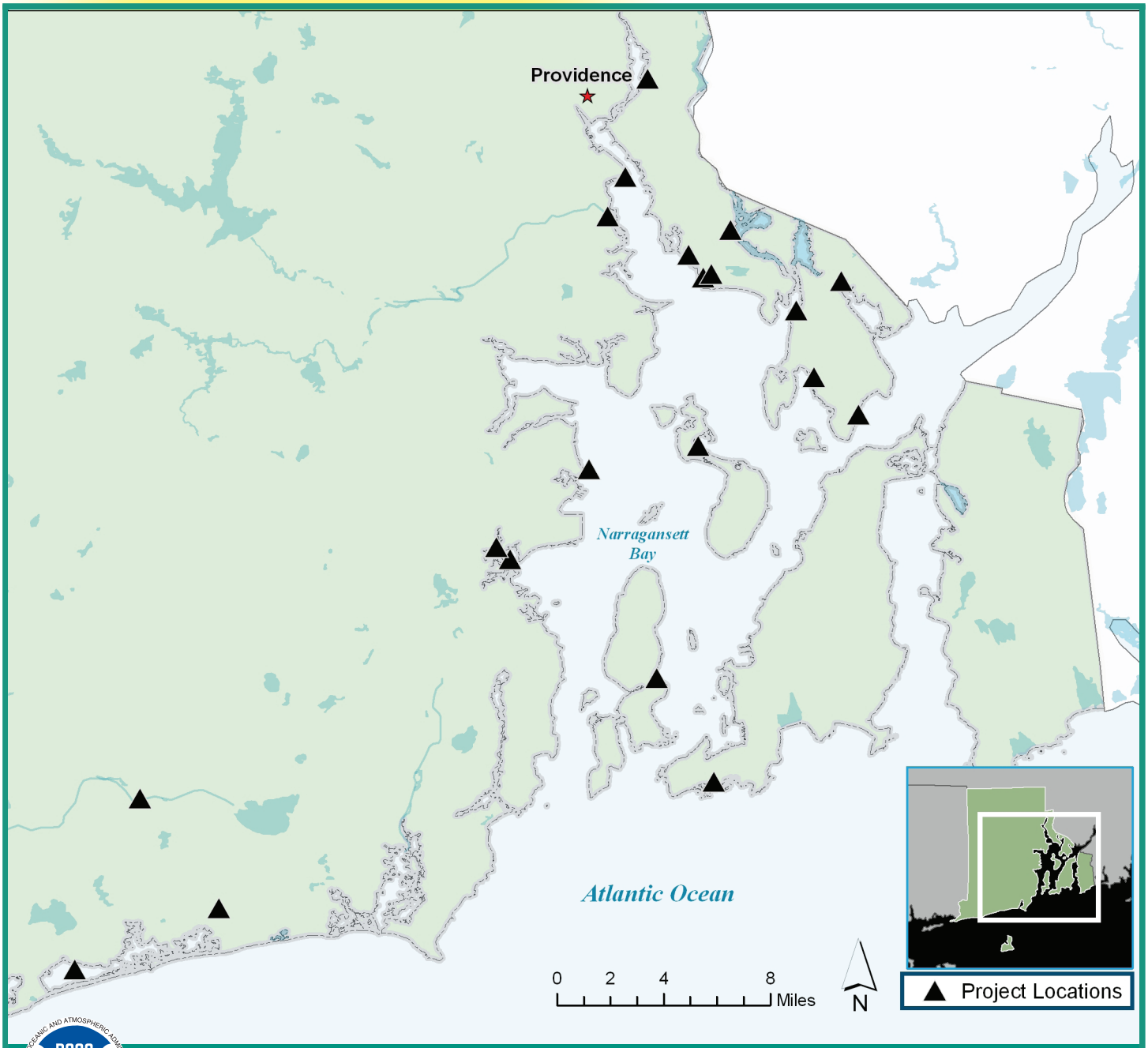
NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

State of Rhode Island



SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

- Echo Lake Fishway and Mussachuck Creek Tide Gate Improvements, Barrington
- Fields Point Marsh Restoration, Providence
- Gooseneck Cove Marsh Restoration, Newport
- Kickemuit Reservoir Fishway, Warren
- Narragansett Bay Eelgrass Restoration, North Kingstown
- Narragansett Bay Oyster Restoration and Education, Bristol
- Pawtuxet Falls Fish Passage, Warwick
- Potters Pond Marsh Restoration, Prudence Island
- Silver Creek Marsh Restoration, Bristol
- Walker Farm Salt Marsh Restoration, Barrington
- Wickford Harbor Eelgrass Restoration, North Kingstown